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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,599	08/21/2003	Dawn White	DWH-11902/29	9796
25006	7590	03/08/2006	EXAMINER	
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE & CITKOWSKI, P.C			SELLS, JAMES D	
PO BOX 7021			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
TROY, MI 48007-7021			1734	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/646,599	WHITE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	James Sells	1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1-17-06.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dourmanidis et al (US Patent 6,450,393) in view of Khoshnevis (US Patent 6,589,471).

Dourmanidis discloses a method and apparatus for producing a three-dimensional part. As shown in the figures, cutting device 40 cuts individual planar sheets 32 from materials supplied from feed system 66. These planar sheets are positioned on apparatus 30 comprising table 36, base 50, Cartesian table 52 and anvil 54. Ultrasonic welder 38 then welds the individual sheets 32 together to form the three-dimensional part in the manner claimed by the applicant. See column 5, line 14 through column 6, line 43.

Control unit 46 may be a computer and controls the operation of the ultrasonic welder. This control unit requires input of the geometry of the part and may include a CAD software package (see col. 8, line 11 through col. 9, line 3). This control unit also controls the vertical pressure, vibration amplitude and welding time.

However, Dourmanidis does not disclose the consolidation inhibitor as claimed by the applicant. Regarding this difference, the applicant is directed to the reference of Khoshnevis.

Khoshnevis discloses a method and apparatus for manufacturing three-dimensional objects. The process 300 includes laying down a thin powder layer 310, depositing a sintering inhibitor 320, and sintering the powder later by radiation 340. Khoshnevis discloses several mechanisms for depositing the sintering inhibitor 320. They include: depositing a heat reflective material 600; depositing a heat-isolating material 610; depositing an anti-sintering agent 620 that oxidizes the metal powder such as alcohol or oil; and depositing an isolating material such as a ceramic slurry and base powder of polymer, metal or ceramic (see col. 4, line 16 through col. 5, line 7).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ a consolidation inhibitor, as taught by Khoshnevis, in the method of Dourmanidis in order to facilitate manufacture of articles with desired shapes and configurations.

Without the disclosure of unexpected results, it is the examiner's position that the specific materials, control features (i.e. analyzing the description and determining what would be appropriate) and consolidation technique are within the purview of one having ordinary skill in the art and would have been obvious to employ in the method and apparatus of Khoshnevis as a matter of design choice based on the physical requirements and properties of the articles being manufactured.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Telephone/Fax

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Sells whose telephone number is (571) 272-1237. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached at (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.



JAMES SELLS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECH. CENTER 1700